

Site inspection report of District Forest Officer, Bhadravadi Kothagudem District for diversion of 14.84179 Ha (revised from 24.74 Ha) of Forest land in Kothagudem and Yellandu Divisions for construction of B.T.Road from Tekulapalli to Gundala.

* * * *

Inspected this road proposal with Forest Divisional Officer, Yellandu, Forest Divisional Officer, Kothagudem, Forest Range Officer, Tekulapalli, Forest Range Officer, Yellandu and staff on 28.06.2022. This road is falling in two Forest Divisions of Kothagudem and Yellandu.

Kothagudem Division:

Total length passing through Chatakonda RF is 5.75141 Kms in Compartment No's 34 & 35 of Bodu Beat & 36 of Koyagudem Beat of Tekulapalli Range. Proposed width by user agency is 20 Mtrs, total area proposed for diversion is 11.028 Ha. It was noticed during the inspection that, there is an existing road of 7 Mtrs width (4 Mtrs black top and 3 Mtrs shoulders) for 2.6 Km and 12 Mtrs width (7 Mtrs black top and 5 Mtrs shoulders) for 2.8 Km. As informed by the User agency the road was handed over from Panchayat Raj Department to R&B Department in the year 2018 and also informed that, existing road was laid before the year 2002. As seen from the time line images road can be seen from 2007 (as per Google earth). Further, it was noticed that existing road was scrapped for a length of 0.4 km and metal was laid. There is no mention of right of way in Reserved Forest Block Notification. The proposed road is passing through complete encroachment land for which FRA rights were issued in few pockets.

Yellandu Division:

Total length passing through Komraram RF is 6.616 Kms in Compartment No's 34 & 35 of Patharlagadda and Bombai Thanda Beat respectively of Yellandu Range. Proposed width by user agency is 20 Mtrs, total area proposed for diversion is 13.2335 Ha. It was noticed during the inspection that there is an existing road of 7 Mtrs width (4 Mtrs black top and 3 Mtrs shoulders) for 5.05 Km and 12 Mtrs width (7 Mtrs black top and 5 Mtrs shoulders) for 1.56 Km. As informed by the user agency, the road was handed over from Panchayat Raj Department to R&B Department in the year 2018 and also informed that existing road was

laid before the year 2002. As seen from the time line images road can be seen from 2007 (as per Google earth). There is no mention of right of way in Reserved Forest Block Notification. The proposed road is passing through complete encroachment land for which FRA rights were issued in few pockets.

Observations and recommendations:

This road connects Tekulapalli town to Yellandu - Gundala road. It does not connect major habitations. Vehicle traffic in this area is very low and huge width of black top road is not justifiable. As there is an existing black top road of 4 Mtrs wide, this is sufficient for connecting Tekulapalli and Gundala villages. Initial recommendation of Forest Divisional Officers, Yellandu and Kothagudem was for 12 Mtrs, as observed in the field and as per the discussions held at office of the District Forest Officer, Bhadradi Kothagudem with R&B Department Officials on 29.06.2022 **this proposal is rejected.**

Further, violation of 3.12 Ha (12 Mtrs width * 2.6 KM) & 1.872 Ha (12 Mtrs width * 1.56 KM) in Kothagudem and Yellandu Divisions respectively was noticed and a show cause notice was issued to the User agency for taking further necessary action.

Dt. 06.07.2022.
Kothagudem.

(LAXMAN RANJEET NAYAK)
District Forest Officer,
Bhadradi Kothagudem District.